Weekly / Monthly attendance of C.G.H.S. Homoeopathic Units

1812. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Weekly/Monthly attendance of each CGHS Homoeopathic Units functioning in various parts in Delhi/New Delhi from 1.1.1994 to 31.8.1996;

(b) whether Government are considering to upgrade the standard of the CGHS Homoeopathic Units on the basis of the Weekly/Monthly attendance and day by day increasing work load;

(c) whether any proposal is under active consideration to provide more Para-Medical staff in the CGHS Homoeopathic Units;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The information is available in the statements enclosed at Annexure [*See Appendix 179, Annexure No. 38*]

(b) to (e) Due to constraints of resources, it is not currently possible to upgrade the CGHS Homoeopathy Units by augmenting the number of para-medical staff.

Experience of privatisation in banking sector

1813. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experience of privatisation in the banking sector has been satisfactory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The reference is presumably to the setting up of new private sector banks. Ten banks have been set up in the private sector in terms of the guidelines of 22.1.1993 issued by the Reserve Bank of India. During the year ending 31-3-1996, these 10 banks mobilised deposits aggregating Rs. 5937 crores and extended credit to the extent of Rs. 4759 crores. They also made an aggregate profit of Rs. 166 crores. Considering that private sector banks were licensed to be set up to introduce greater competition, the experience so far can be said to be satisfactory.

Exchange Reserves Position

1814. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exchange reserves position has suffered considerable erosion during the past few months;

(b) if so, the comparative exchange reserves postion as on 1st April, and July, 1996 and the likely position on 1st January and April, 1997;. and

(c) the reasons for the erosion?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. The foreign exchange reserves position has improved in recent months.

(b) The foreign exchange reserves, comprising foreign currency assests of the RBI, gold and SDRs, rose from US $ 21687 million at the end of March 1996 to US $ 22091 million at the end of June, 1996 and further to US $ 23940 million on November 22, 1996. The foreign exchange reserves positon on further dates will depend upon several factors, such as the net inflow or outflow of funds on account of the external transactions put through the RBI, developments on the current and capital accounts of the balance of payments and the demand and

supply conditions in the foreign exchange market, which are difficut to predict with certainty.

(c) Does not arise.

Operation of Private Airlines on International Routes

1815. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been made by the private airlines to allow them to operate on International routes at least to those destinations which are not being linked by Air India and Indian Airlines.;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether there is any proposal to operate Indian Airlines of Air India flights to destinations hitherto not connected;

(d) the International Routes under bilateral rights identified by Indian Airlines and Air India as uneconomical; and

(e) the reasons for not allowing private airlines at least on those uneconomical International Routes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) Some private airlines have sought permission to operate international services to the countries which are already linked by national carriers.

(b) Under the existing policy, private airlines are not designated for scheduled international operations.

(c) Air India has recently introduced a service between India and Chicago

(d) and (e) No international route can be classiffed as uneconomical on a long-term basis as the financial viability of air services operations depends on growth in trade commerce, tourism etc. over a period of time. So far, no private airlines has come forward to operate on sectors which do not promise immediate financial returns.

Advances to Housing by Banks

1816. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether advances for housing by banks are considered as priority sector; if so, upto what limit is considered as priority sector lending;

(b) whether Government are aware that only advances upto Rs. 2 lakhs is considered as priority sector in case of Urban Banks and if so, whether it is not unrealistic in view of the high cost of construction; and

(c) whether Government will consider raising this limit to Rs. 5 lakhs to promote housing for the middle Income group?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Advance to housing by banks upto Rs. 2 lakhs are considered as priority sector lending. This limit was prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in March/ April, 1994. RBI has reported that there is currently no proposal for upward revision of this limit, as these advances are mainly for low income groups. RBI has reported that banks also grant advances beyond Rs. 2 lakhs depending upon the income and repaying capacity of the borrower. However, these advances are not classified as priority sector leading.

Tourism Policy of States

1817. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has asked State Governments to prepare and submit their tourism policy; and

(b) if so, the steps State Governments have taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Preparation of Tourism policies is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The following State